



Know
Before
You
Go

SLOVENIA

A Guide to Keep You Safe Abroad

PROVIDED BY:
Pathways to Safety International

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Let's be perfectly clear, the number one way to prevent sexual assault is to **not rape**. While the responsibility of ending sexual gender based violence is on the perpetrators, this guide will offer general safety tips, country-specific information, and resources to help prevent and prepare travelers for the possibility of sexual assault abroad.

GENERAL SAFETY TIPS:

1. Use the **buddy system** and travel with friends.
2. Be aware of **social and cultural norms**. For example, looking at someone in the eyes when you speak to them is perfectly normal in the U.S., but in another country that could signify you're interested in the person.
3. **Recognize controlling behavior** when entering a relationship. Most rape survivors recall feeling "uncomfortable" about some of their partner's behaviors such as degrading jokes/language or refusal to accept "no" as an answer, whether in a sexual context or otherwise.²
4. **Avoid secluded places** where you could be more vulnerable. Meet new people in public spaces and let a trusted friend know where you'll be beforehand. Always have a backup plan in mind.
5. **Trust your gut**. Many victims have a "bad feeling" right before an assault takes place. It's okay to leave a situation that is making you feel uncomfortable. Stay alert and aware in new social settings and places.



ALCOHOL AND DRUG AWARENESS:

- Always watch your drink being poured and carry it yourself, even to the bathroom.
- "Drug-facilitated sexual assault drugs," also referred to as club drugs or roofies may turn your drink slightly salty, bright blue, or cloudy. Effects such as distorted judgment, loss sense of time, sight, sound, identity, and overall consciousness can be felt within 15 minutes and may last up to 4 hours.³
- The legal age to buy or drink alcohol in public places such as bars or restaurants in Slovenia is 18 years old.⁴ Possession or consumption of small amounts of illicit substances are considered minor offenses rather than criminal offenses and may result in a fine of a couple hundred Euros.⁵

CULTURAL INFORMATION:

Major Religions: Roman Catholic 57.8%, Muslim 2.4%, Orthodox 2.3%, other christia 0.9%, unaffiliated 3.5%, other/unspecified 23%, and none 10.1%.⁶

Legal System: The legal Slovenian legal system is described as "a civil law jurisdiction with a codified system of law and a strong influence of German Law and legal order".⁷

Social/Cultural Norms: As family is important, multi-generational households are common. Greetings are formal unless you know the other person well. It is considered rude to call a person by their first name, if permission has not been given. Apparel is more modest than what many Americans would wear. Complaining in conversation is considered rude.⁸

Gender Equality: According to the World Economic Forums 2017 Global Gender Gap report, Slovenia ranks 7th out of 144 countries in terms of gender equality. Generations of women have fought for gender equality in Slovenia and many laws and policies have been put in place as a result. Slovenia is now one of the leading nations when it comes to gender equality and they are ranked highest in the EU when comparing equal pay.¹⁰

SEXUAL ASSAULT AND THE LAW: Slovenian Context

Under article 170, rape is defined as “(1) Whoever compels a person of the same or opposite sex to submit to sexual intercourse with him by force or threat of imminent attack on life or limb”. This shall result in a sentence of imprisonment for not less than one and not more than ten years. Under article 171, sexual assault is defined as “(1) Whoever uses force or threatens a person of the same or opposite sex with imminent attack on life or limb thereby compelling that person to submit to any lewd act not covered by the preceding Article or to perform such an act.” This crime will result in six months to ten years of imprisonment if convicted.¹¹

If You Experience Sexual Assault...

Don't blame yourself! **Sexual assault is never the fault of the victim.** You may be unsure of how to proceed, and that's okay. First, consider taking the following actions:

1. If you are in a safe place, **call someone you trust** to be with you. If you are not safe, call someone you trust to come and get you.
2. Do **self-collection of evidence**. Put all of the clothes you were wearing, bed sheets, and so on in a paper bag. If you have any injuries, **take pictures**. If there is semen present, collect what you can and put it in the *paper bag*.
3. **Call a Pathways to Safety International Advocate** internationally toll free, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. They can help you through the ordeal, honoring your decisions. (*See Resources for contact info.*)

MEDICAL CARE AND REPORTING SEXUAL ASSAULT IN SLOVENIA

If you have experienced a sexual assault in Slovenia, the U.S. Department of State recommends you contact the nearest embassy and the local police. The embassy may help you find adequate medical care, assist in reporting the crime, contacting family or relatives, and much more. The local police will be responsible for investigating and prosecuting the crime.¹² Seek medical attention from a local hospital and request emergency contraception and post exposure prophylaxis.

LGBTQ CONCERNS



As of 2017, same sex marriage is legal in Slovenia and the fight for LGBTQIA rights is growing. That being said, there is still resentment from some people in the country towards those identify as LGBTQIA. Same sex couples are not allowed to adopt and do not have the same rights as heterosexual couples.¹³

EMERGENCY CONTRACEPTION (EC), POST-EXPOSURE PROPHYLAXIS (PEP), AND ABORTION INFORMATION

Q: Are emergency contraception and post-exposure prophylaxis available?

A: Emergency contraception is available without a prescription from pharmacies but must be requested in order to purchase.¹⁴ Post exposure prophylaxis drugs are only available through the Department of Infectious Diseases of the University Medical Centre Ljubljana and you will need an urgent referral for a medical examination from an emergency room doctor.¹⁵

Q: Is abortion legal in Slovenia?

A: Abortion is legal in Slovenia for the first ten weeks of pregnancy.¹⁶

RESOURCES

PATHWAYS TO SAFETY INTERNATIONAL

Crisis Line: To call our confidential, toll-free International Crisis Line, first dial the country specific AT&T access code for **Slovenia (386)**. Then, at the prompt, enter our phone number: **833-SAFE-833 (833-723-3833)**

Crisis Email: Connect with a Pathways Advocate via email at crisis@pathwaystosafety.org. All crisis emails will be responded to within 24 hours. **For immediate help, please **call** our crisis line.*

Live Chat: Pathways online chat service is available 24/7 on our website at pathwaystosafety.org.

Slovenj Gradec Hospital: (English Speaking)
Splošna bolnišnica, Gosposvetska cesta 1

Phone: 02-882-3400

US EMBASSIES/CONSULATES

Prešernova 31, Ljubljana, Slovenia
Telephone: +386 1 200 55 00
Fax: +386 1 200 55 55
E-mail: USEmbassyLjubljana@state.gov

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

European Emergency: 112
Slovenia Police: 113
(Both are used in Slovenia)

HOSPITALS

Celje Hospital: (English Speaking)
Splošna bolnišnica, Oblakova ulica 5
Phone: 03-423-3000

Ljubljana Hospital: (English Speaking)
Univerzitetni klinični center, Zaloška cesta 2
Phone: 01-522-5050

Novo Mesto Hospital: (English Speaking)
Splošna bolnišnica, Šmihelska cesta 1
Phone: 07-391-6100

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